

## Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 BEIRUT 03239 081009Z  
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00  
INR-07 NSAE-00 DODE-00 SSM-03 IO-13 ACDA-07 ARA-10  
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INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN  
AMEMBASSY CAIRO  
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS  
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

S E C R E T BEIRUT 3239

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PFOR PINS LE  
SUBJ: CONVERSATION WITH CHAMOUNS

1. HAD LONG LUNCH-TIME CONVERSATION WITH CAMILLE CHAMOUN, HIS SON DANY, AND SHIA POLITICO KAZEM KHALIL AT MAUDE FARAJALLAH'S APARTMENT JULY 7. FOLLOWING REMARKS OF INTEREST EMERGED.

2. SOUTH LEBANON. DANY CLAIMED THERE NO POSSIBILITY OF WORKABLE TRUCE IN SOUTH BECAUSE PALESTINIANS NOT TRUSTWORTHY. IN ANY EVENT, NO PURPOSE SERVED BY TALKING TO CHAMOUNISTS ABOUT IT BECAUSE THEY DID NOT CONTROL FORCES ON GROUND. CEASE-FIRE WAS UP TO AMERICANS, PALESTINIANS AND ISRAELIS. HE CLAIMED THAT ALL THAT WAS HOLDING ISRAELIS BACK FROM ATTACKING SOUTH WAS AMERICANS. WERE IT NOT FOR US, ISRAELIS WOULD OCCUPY AREA SOUTH OF LITANI AND START NEGOTIATING DIVISION OF LITANI WATERS. WHEN I DEMURRED HE SAID HE HAD HEARD THIS FROM THEM THREE DAYS AGO. (I MUST SAY THERE IS A CERTAIN CONSISTENCY TO DANY'S REMARKS ABOUT ISRAELIS, AND WONDER TO WHOM HE IS TALKING DOWN THERE.)

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3. I ASKED ABOUT INCIDENTS ON GROUND AND HE SAID NOTHING HAD HAPPENED AT YARUN BUT ISRAELIS HAD GONE INTO YARIN AND KILLED 34 PEOPLE, MOSTLY LEFTISTS AND PALESTINIANS. KAZEM KHALIL INTERJECTED AND SAID HE HAD TALKED TO MAN FROM VILLAGE WHO SAID ONLY EIGHT PEOPLE KILLED, AND THAT BY ARTILLERY FIRE. I TOLD DANY WE UNDERSTOOD IT HAD BEEN LEBANESE FORCES WHO HAD MOVED

INTO YARIN. HE SMILED AND SAID ISRAELIS AND LEBANESE FORCES WERE ALL THE SAME. LEBANESE FORCES NOW MORE ISRAELI THAN LEBANESE.

4. NOTE: I PERSONALLY DO NOT PUT A LOT OF STOCK IN WHAT DANY SAYS ABOUT ISRAELIS, EVEN THOUGH HE IN TOUCH WITH THEM, BUT REPORT WHAT HE SAYS BECAUSE PEOPLE IN THE DEPARTMENT HAVE BEEN IMPRESSED BY HIS REASONABLENESS.

5. POLITICAL CONCILIATION. I TOLD CAMILLE CHAMOUN WE HAD NOTED LEBANESE FRONT'S DECLARATION THAT THERE COULD BE NO PROGRESS ON POLITICAL CONCILIATION AS LONG AS THERE WERE ARMED FOREIGNERS IN THE COUNTRY. THIS POSITION WAS UNDERSTANDABLE, BUT LEBANESE WOULD HAVE TO FACE THE FACT THAT PROSPECT OF CAIRO ACCORD BEING IMPLEMENTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH LEBANESE INTERPRETATION ANY TIME IN THE NEAR FUTURE WAS NIL. IMPLEMENTATION BY FORCE APPEARED BEYOND CAPABILITIES OF SYRIANS, AND IT WOULD INVOLVE TRAGIC LOSS OF LEBANESE LIFE AND PROPERTY. POLITICAL ACCORD WOULD SEEM BE ONLY ALTERNATIVE.

6. CHAMOUN SAID WITH SOME HEAT THAT POLITICAL ACCORD NOT POSSIBLE. PALESTINIANS HAD SOLEMNLY AGREED TO ACCORD AT CAIRO AND RIYADH, AND NOW WE SAW WHAT THEIR WORD WAS WORTH. WE COULD NOT EXPECT LEBANESE TO NEGOTIATE WITH THEM. LET THE PALESTINIANS LAY DOWN  
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THEIR ARMS AND GO AWAY. THEN THERE COULD BE INTERNAL CONCILIATION. LET THEM KEEP THEIR WORD.

7. I SAID I HAD NOT BEEN PROPOSING ANYTHING, MERELY RAISING IDEA FOR DISCUSSION. PERHAPS POLITICAL SOLUTION WAS NOT POSSIBLE. ONE REASON WAS BECAUSE LEBANESE SO DIVIDED AMONG THEMSELVES. LEBANESE-AMERICAN PROFESSOR HAD ASKED ME OTHER DAY WHAT WE WOULD DO IF 30,000,000 CUBANS INSTALLED SELVES IN UNITED STATES AND HAD 3,000,000 MEN UNDER ARMS, GIVING THEM ARMY STRONGER THAN THAT OF USG. REFLECTING ON THIS, I HAD DECIDED FIRST THING WE WOULD DO WAS ALL GET TOGETHER AND AGREE ON WHAT MUST BE DONE TO GET RID OF CUBANS.

8. CHAMOUN SAID CHRISTIAN AND SHIA COULD GET TOGETHER, BUT NOT CHRISTIAN AND SUNNI. AT LEAST NOT AS LONG AS PALESTINIANS IN COUNTRY (ALTHOUGH SAEB SALAM TELLS ME CHAMOUN IS SEEKING MEETING WITH HIM, BUT HE IS REFUSING UNTIL CHAMOUN HAS SOMETHING DEFINITE TO OFFER). I SAID DIVISIONS OBVIOUSLY VERY DEEP, BUT PALESTINIANS WERE GOING TO BE HERE A LONG WHILE, EVEN IF MIDDLE EAST

PROBLEM SETTLED, WHICH IT WOULD NOT BE FOR SOME TIME.  
IN MEANTIME, TIME WAS BEING WASTED. DANY CHAMOUN SAID  
TIME WAS NOT REALLY ALL THAT IMPORTANT. SYRIANS WERE  
IN FACT IMPLEMENTING CAIRO ACCORD BY SALAMI TACTICS  
AND EVENTUALLY PALESTINIANS WOULD BE BROUGHT UNDER  
CONTROL. I HOPE HE IS RIGHT.  
PARKER

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NNN

## Message Attributes

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